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lumination. The library profession will make its appeal in 1950, as it does today, to men and women who like to work with and among and through books; who also like to work with and among and through people: who enjoy watching the interplay of relations between the man and the book and using them for the advancement of civilization. This is an intellectual and spiritual appeal, and it is not likely to be replaced by that which glitters on the metallic face of the dollar.

In taking leave of our subject we may go back to our opening simile of the railroad train. The flier that reaches New York is the same train that left Chicago;

its passengers have not greatly changed, and yet its environment is wholly different, so that the outlook of those within it has totally altered. It is in some such fashion that the library of 1950 will differ from that of today. It will be the same institution with the same staff, but it will have traveled far on the rails of time. Its environment, its outlook will be different, and in its response to that variation it must needs do different things and render a different service. May its motive power never fail, its machinery be kept well oiled, and the crew maintain their strength, intelligence and sanity!

WHAT THE CITY LIBRARY IS DOING TO HELP WIN THE WAR

By HILLER C. WELLMAN, *Librarian, City Library Association, Springfield, Mass.*

When war was declared, a new day dawned in America. There took place over night a complete transformation of values. Whatever the private interests and concerns of the individual, if the Government said go, he dropped all and went. Similarly, no matter what the previous functions and practice of the public library, any aid that it could properly render in connection with the war became paramount. Buildings, books, and service were to be regarded first with a view to the help they could appropriately give in the gigantic task before the nation.

In Springfield, the first and immediate duty seemed to be service to the officers and enlisted men who were at once stationed at the Armory and the Watershops. Drill manuals, guides for soldiers, French textbooks, books on aeroplanes, machine guns, and many other branches of military science and on military sanitation were liberally supplied. Personal letters were sent to officers inviting them to use the library's resources, and important technical works furnished, some of which were

not otherwise obtainable. Textbooks and reference books were furnished also for the classes receiving military instruction—both officers and men. Civilians of draft age were given publications describing the conditions of military life; and men who had taken the training at Plattsburg were provided with officer's manuals, works on military map making, and the like. The library early printed a list of books on military subjects, which has been widely used; and the khaki uniform is a common sight in the reading rooms.

Manufacturers of military supplies were another object of attention. They resort to the library for all sorts of information, often involving much research. A manufacturer of aeroplanes, for example, asks for tests showing the qualities of hickory; a maker of saddlery looks up publications on leather; a Government silk inspector refers to treatises on silk culture and spinning; a teacher in a school of aeronautics asks for the latest information in print; an army officer uses special dictionaries in translating an important military work; men from the factories consult all sorts of books on machinery, fuel oils, aeroplane

motors, and a host of similar topics. In fact, no day passes without many calls for technical books directly or indirectly bearing on the war.

When the American Library Association undertook last fall to raise a million dollars to supply books and libraries for our soldiers and sailors, public libraries throughout the country conducted the campaign. That was almost the first of the national campaigns for funds, and showed splendid vision on the part of the American Library Association's leaders. But projects of the kind were novel; it was necessary to convince librarians, trustees, and public of the necessity of the work. In the light of later campaigns, the amount required seems trivial; but at the time the quotas assigned to each library looked formidable indeed, and I suspect many a librarian confronted the problem with misgiving. The occasion, however, furnished an exceptional opportunity for impressing on the public the importance of books and libraries. In Springfield the task was rendered easier by the city's being made a center for western Massachusetts, and holding a large meeting addressed by speakers furnished by the Association. The program suggested was followed, and a committee organized consisting of seventy patriotic women who canvassed the city. By the middle of the campaign week, Springfield's quota was fifty per cent over-subscribed. The experience raises a query, however, as to the best method of proceeding in subsequent campaigns. It is desirable that contributions should come from as many individuals as possible, and yet the total amount to be raised seems hardly great enough to warrant the time and energy of a large organization and a house-to-house canvass.

Just as soon as war was declared, as already stated, large contingents of soldiers were stationed in Springfield to guard the Armory, the Watershops, and certain other places. The need of recreational reading by these men was so obvious that the library supplied deposits of books before the American Library Association be-

gan operations; and it has continued to care for these groups, requisitioning from the American Library Association the more technical books and special publications not obtainable by gift in the city. Books for the soldiers have been solicited continuously, and have been shipped to the camps and dispatch offices. Pictures have been gathered and classified for use in military instruction at Camp Devens, and scrapbooks have been made for the hospitals. In March when the book campaign week was instituted, the plan was tried of enlisting the pupils in the high schools. In proportion to the effort involved, the results were surprising. The newspapers responded generously, and for seventeen days contained items ranging from a few paragraphs to special articles of two or three columns. The coöperation of the high school principals was obtained, and an opportunity secured to address the pupils in each of the three schools. They were asked to assume entire responsibility for gathering the books; and they took hold with a will. A wholesome rivalry between schools set in, and the result was more than 34,000 excellent books. Members of the Woman's Club lent automobiles, a local box company presented packing cases, trucking companies furnished transportation, and the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense helped in plating and preparing the books for circulation.

The library has, naturally, been active in the movement for food conservation. It promptly printed lists of books to help the housekeeper make the best use of food supplies, and it has, of course, displayed all sorts of charts and posters showing the nutritive value of foods. The newspaper is doubtless the best medium for arousing widespread interest, but you cannot depend upon people's taking the trouble to clip; for recipes, food cards, or other material which is to be kept and consulted frequently, other methods of distribution are desirable. In this connection, the public library affords an admirable channel for reaching the homes of the people. Be-

sides printing lists on gardening, beekeeping and similar subjects, the Springfield library has procured and distributed thousands and thousands of pamphlets on diet, canning, vegetable raising, thrift, etc. With the aid of the high schools and of the Hampden County Improvement League, it prepared model meals for meatless, wheatless and other days, all showing a correctly balanced diet. Throughout these exhibitions the cases were surrounded by housewives copying the recipes and diligently figuring the calories. The library then arranged with the Committee of Public Safety for a continuous series of exhibits and demonstrations in the main building and also in the branches. It has tucked in library books, when borrowed, thousands of excellent recipes to encourage the use of substitutes for meat, wheat, sugar, fats and oils—and please note the adjective *excellent*, for many of the recipes printed have been almost as deadly as enemy shells. In the same way, at appropriate branches recipes have been distributed in foreign languages, and in one instance a speaker was obtained to address a gathering of foreign housewives.

Of course, pictures, notices, posters and lists have been constantly displayed in aid of all patriotic movements, and the monthly *Bulletin* has constantly urged their importance. The reference department has gathered material on women's war work, and maintains also a directory and register of local organizations engaged in war work. The hall and rooms of the library and museums have been placed freely at the service of patriotic organizations, and parties have been held for the soldiers. Precedent has gone to the wall, and solicitation in the library of contributions for furthering patriotic work has been allowed. Campaigns for the Red Cross, the Red Triangle, the War Chest, Liberty Loans, and allied projects have been assisted, the librarian and other members of the staff have served as canvassers, and they have also represented the library on committees for food conservation, Americanization, draft registration and the like.

A meeting of librarians in the western part of the state was called to further war gardening, conservation and thrift. A booth was installed to raise money for the Young Men's Christian Association; a station established for selling thrift stamps to the public; and thrift clubs were organized among the children. In short, like public libraries everywhere, the institution has tried to coöperate in every possible way with food and fuel conservation commissions, with the Council for National Defense, the Committee of Public Safety, and all similar organizations. But the significant fact is that while for months with perhaps a single exception, all work of this kind in the library was undertaken by the initiative of the library, the field of its usefulness is now recognized. Within the space of two days, for example, it has been asked to further the Red Cross knitting campaign, to distribute circulars for thrift stamp week and to take charge of the distribution of sugar cards.

Not least important in these trying times is the opportunity the library affords for relaxation from nervous strain. With this in mind, incidentally, a little booklist was printed entitled "Nonsense and humor." The war is continually present, consciously or subconsciously and the resulting tension is depressing. Many a man or woman finds in books which lead the thoughts into other fields, the relief and refreshment that make for sanity and emotional poise.

We should not forget, however, that probably the most fundamental service is rendered by the library through its large collection of books on the war. A catalog with descriptive notes was printed and 4,000 copies distributed, listing the best and most popular. Books of this kind exert a powerful influence in educating public opinion. Circulated by the thousands throughout the whole community, they give an intelligent comprehension of the issues at stake, further unity of thought and action, stiffen the determination to win, and promote in no small measure increased willingness to bear the depriva-

tions, hardships and losses necessary for success.

The record, in truth, is modest enough, especially when contrasted with the service and sacrifice of those who hazard their all in the battle front. But no great war nowadays can be won in the field alone; the men in khaki, to win, must be backed by the whole civil population at home. Here lies the opportunity of the library. Through the public library system, the people can be reached as by no other agency save the press, and with an influence in some ways different and more en-

during. In aiding the production of munitions and food, in assisting all forms of community effort necessary to maintain the fighting forces, in making known and reënforcing the wishes of Governmental agencies and commissions, in stimulating informed and intelligent patriotism, and in sustaining the morale of the nation, the library finds a work by no means to be despised. And library workers may take comfort in knowing that their effort in their home libraries forms a real and important, if humble, part of the vast war machinery.

THE SPIRIT OF THE WAR LITERATURE: PROSE

By GEORGE F. BOWERMAN, *Librarian, Public Library of the District of Columbia*

The student of the prose writings of this war is already confronted with an embarrassment of riches perhaps unequaled in the history of literature. Incomplete bibliographies have recorded more than 15,000 titles of books and pamphlets on the war. The purpose of this paper is to select from this mass a very few of the most important and typical books for comment. I do not intend to be critical, but I shall attempt to show something of the spirit of the books selected for consideration.

Although an interesting subject for study, the books generally considered to have had an influence in fathering the war, such as the writings of Treitschke, Bernhardi and Nietzsche must be omitted, as must also the writings treating of the causes and political aspects of the war, even though they include the significant and eloquent utterances of President Wilson, watched for the world over; the books by James M. Beck that did so much to bring to America conviction of the justice of the cause of the Allies; Friedrich Naumann's "Central Europe," regarded as the official statement of Germany's territorial ambitions in this war; the answer to Naumann by André Chéradame in his "Pangerman plot unmasked" and other

writings, and the group of books by Germans who have left Germany and are now opposing her, "J'accuse, by a German" and "The crime," by the same author, and "Because I am a German" and "The coming democracy" by Hermann Fernau. Limitations of time compel me to represent this phase of my subject by two books only, treating of the psychology of the war in England and France, with mention of a third book on the psychology of German kultur.

The spirit and temper of England cannot be better shown than by a brief extract from a fascinating book by Professor Gilbert Murray, entitled "Faith, war, and policy" (1917). From this gentle Oxford don and classicist we have the righteous indignation that any right-minded man must feel at the present time. We must not hate, we are told (in August, 1914), but there is to be no softening of fiber—resolution rather "to face death and kill."

"For there is that side of it too. We have now not only to strain every nerve to help our friend—we must strain every nerve also to injure our enemy. This is horrible, but we must try to face the truth. For my own part, I find that I do desperately desire to hear of German dreadnaughts sunk in the North Sea. Mines are